

~~SECRET~~

REPORT NO.

50X1

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 29 March 1954

SUBJECT 1. Soviet Border Troops Officer and NCO Training
2. CW Training

NO. OF PAGES 5

DATE OF INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

PLACE ACQUIRED

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1

SOURCE

50X1

It has been found that Source has a tendency to exaggerate.

~~SECRET~~

50X1

SECRET

-2-

TRAINING AND MANEUVERS

A. OCS TRAINING, 1938-40

[redacted] for general comments, general course instruction and border training at the OCS for Border Guard Troops.

B. RECENT OFFICER TRAINING

1. The Main Administration (Directorate) of Border Guard Troops (GUPV - Glavnoye Upravleniye Pogranichnykh Voysk) had an advanced school for field grade and senior MGB officers. A detailed description of the school is contained [redacted]. The locations of other MGB-MVD schools known to source, all of which had two-year courses, were given [redacted].

2. When questioned on present OCS training and the caliber of officers within the Border Guard Troops units, source answered that he was not familiar with the present course of instruction but believed that it was along the same lines as that at the OCS he had attended. He thought that instruction in the English and Russian languages had been eliminated.

Concerning the caliber of officers in Border Guard Troops units, he felt that the officers who recently graduated from OCS were superior to those found in the Border Guard Troops up to 1940. Prior to 1940, the Border Guard Troops officer corps was made up of men who had long service in the NKVD and other police organizations, and had come up through the ranks. In many instances these men were poorly educated. After 1940, efforts were made to select well-educated men for service as Border Guard Troops officers. Officer candidates were selected either from among Border Guard Troops NCOs or from among civilian students. Source estimated that 80-90% were NCOs and 10-20% were former civilian students who had completed ten years of schooling or completed studies at a technical institute. Source was certain that no Border Guard Troops officers or officer candidates had seen prior service in the Soviet Army.

3. Source gave the following information on the training of foreign officers. [redacted] Senior MGB Border Guard Troops Officers School at BABUSHKIN (5552N-3742E), near MOSCOW, [redacted] 30-40 Hungarian Border Troop officers living in a two-story yellow brick building, about 30 x 15 m, in BABUSHKIN.

These officers ate in the same mess hall as the Soviet officer students, but at different hours. They did not attend the same classes, and did not attend classes in the Soviet officer class buildings. Source believed that they had classes in their barracks building, which was off limits to Soviet officers, and was used by Hungarian officers only.

In spite of efforts to prevent fraternization, the Soviet and Hungarian officers met in the PX, where the Hungarian officers could purchase items, in the bus depot waiting room, or on the bus. They took the same bus to MOSCOW on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

[redacted] source talked to one Hungarian officer who spoke broken Russian. The officer told source that the Hungarians were attending a two-year course for border officers.

Source heard from his own instructors that separate instructors came from MOSCOW daily to instruct the Hungarian officers. He also heard from his instructors that there were other schools in the USSR where officers of the various Democratic Republics were trained.

SECRET

SECRET

50X1

-3-

About eight to 10 of the Hungarians spoke broken Russian; the rest did not understand Russian but were receiving Russian language instruction. Their uniforms and insignia were the same as that of the Soviet officers, except that the material was heavier and coarser, and the color was slightly darker. Source saw Hungarian officers in the grade of major, captain, and senior lieutenant.

On 7 Nov 52, the anniversary of the revolution, the Hungarian officers were taken to MOSCOW in two or three small new sight-seeing buses to see the parade.

C. NCO TRAINING

Some of the more intelligent and physically able EM were sent to one-year NCO courses conducted by MVD district headquarters. Instructors were MVD officers. The subjects taught were the same as those given in regular EM training, but were more detailed. In addition, NCO candidates received training in leadership, commands, and squad and platoon tactics.

The NCO course students were graduated as junior sergeants or sergeants and were eligible for promotion, one grade every six months, until they reached first sergeant. They were also eligible for OCS.

D. EM AND RECRUIT TRAINING

See [] for information about EM and recruit training.

E. GARRISON TRAINING

1. Training in Border Guard Troops units was divided into four phases:
 - a. Winter-spring phase - started in December, lasted until the end of April.
 - b. Inspection phase - seven to 10 days at the end of April.
 - c. Summer phase - started on 1 May, lasted until the end of November.
 - d. Inspection phase - seven to 10 days at the end of November.

The highest training level for Border Guard Troops was squad and platoon.

2. There were no set training schedules for Border Guard Troops units, because of the irregular guard duty hours. The company CO or his deputy conducted training on border guard duties, general military tactics, and target practice, which took place in the company area. The Political Officer gave political orientation, and the NCOs gave PT, close order drill, and weapons training.

Border Guard Troops units had no marches, bivouacs, GPKs, or maneuvers. Three or four times annually, an alert was sounded. At this time, all troops were supposed to fall in within two minutes with arms and ammunition, and occupy trenches dug near the company barracks. These trenches were in a perimeter defense, and had MG nests. It usually took five minutes for the troops to occupy their alert positions in the trenches. The alert never extended beyond the company area, and troops on guard posts did not participate in alerts.

3. Twice annually, inspection teams composed of senior officers (generals, colonels, and lieutenant colonels) from district headquarters and ministry headquarters in MOSCOW conducted an inspection of troops. These inspections

SECRET

50X1

lasted about seven to 10 days, once in April and once in November, and covered every phase, such as individual neatness, personal hygiene, political training, combat training, marksmanship, system of electrical detection devices, and alertness on the border.

The main complaint voiced by unit COs and by EM was the lack of sleep for guards. While all guards were supposed to get seven hours of uninterrupted sleep, the actual time was about three to five hours. In spite of the fact that battalion COs reported this to the inspection commission and requested more guards, nothing was ever done to improve the situation (see also report [redacted])

4. [redacted]

a. Engineer Training

[redacted] the Central Eng. Training Area near MOSCOW (see report [redacted] the drilling of wells to locate and extract water for troops. A 12-in pipe with smaller pipes inside it was lowered simultaneously with the drill. He could give no further details on this drilling. Engineer equipment seen by source will be described in [redacted] which will be published at a later date.

Source had no information on the construction or dimensions of a pontoon bridge as he never saw the actual construction of such a bridge.

b. Officer-NCO Refresher Courses

All Border Guard Troops officers and NCOs had two weeks of special training each year. It was called "Obar"(assembly for refresher training). The training was staggered throughout the winter-spring training phase.

Officer training was given at district headquarters to detachment, battalion, and company COs and technical officers. The detachment, battalion, and company COs were divided into separate groups. The battalion COs, including source, had refresher training on new border security theories, political orientation, target practice, and general military data.

NCO refresher training covered the same subjects. No further details.

c. CBR Training

CW training was conducted according to a progressive annual schedule. Once every two to three weeks, a scheduled gas alert was held on the order of the battalion officer of the day. Masks were worn during these alerts for gradually increasing periods of time, going from 15 minutes to two hours in one year. In addition to the alerts, the schedule called for 12-15 hours of chemical instruction to be given by the company CO or another officer.

There was much laxity in this CW training. Source knew that soldiers put matches under the edge of the face-piece during gas alerts to allow air to enter freely. Neither he nor his subordinates attempted to discourage the practice. The chemical instruction classes were usually turned over to an NCO with little or no CW knowledge. Instead of giving the scheduled hour of instruction, the NCO would make a few general statements in 10 minutes and permit the men to loaf the rest of the time. Source

SECRET

SECRET

-5-

50X1

believed this to be universal practice in the Border Guard Troops.

50X1
50X1
[redacted] there were no movies, sketches, maps, drawings, blackboards, or other equipment used or displayed during the lectures. The instructor was a lieutenant colonel, name unknown, from the MVD Institute, MOSCOW. He used typewritten notes and read them to the class. Half of the class slept through the lectures. There was no examination.

50X1
The only chemical officers in the Border Guard Troops were at district headquarters level, where there was one District Chemical Officer. The District Chemical Officer, Turkmen Border District, was Lt Col Dimitri MYSOV, [redacted] who knew MYSOV both in the Lithuania and Turkmen Districts. MYSOV transferred to the Turkmen Border District in 1952, and was replaced in Lithuania by a major, name unknown. Source did not know where MYSOV received his CW training.

50X1
50X1
50X1
50X1
To the best of source's knowledge, MYSOV only gave CW instruction once, [redacted]. He gathered all the battalion CO's and district headquarters staff officers and gave a two-hour CW lecture, describing the characteristics and effects of war gases. Tabun and other nerve gases were not included in the lecture. Afterwards, [redacted] the tank and artillery firing range (polygon) near MOSCOW (see report [redacted] and asked why tabun was not mentioned in the lecture. MYSOV said that he did not know anything about tabun. He showed source an old CW training manual. Source did not notice the date on the manual, nor could he remember its color. It had a hard cover, and was between one-half and three-fourths of an inch thick.

During MYSOV's lecture, many of the officers slept or talked among themselves. This was typical of the general lack of interest in CW training among Border Guard Troops personnel.

Source received no biological warfare training or lectures except the usual propaganda about the use of bacteriological warfare by US forces in Korea. He received no atomic defense training, except to hear the statement made by STALIN and MALENKOV that the USSR possessed the atomic bomb.

d. Other Training

Border Guard Troops units were supposed to have night training once a month, but it was never conducted. Source knew of no passive air defense, camouflage, or airborne training given to Border Guard Troops units.

SECRET